

Ward6 NPA
Thursday Dec2 2021

Committee members: M Grady, N Martelle, M Mraz
Absent: J Fitzgerald

Meeting commenced at 6:30p

Public Comment

Rama Kocherlakota – 3rd and final open meeting on redistricting:

<https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/sites/default/files/12.6.21%20Redistricting%20Public%20Meeting%20%233%20Agenda.pdf>

Burlington High School, Present and Future
Clare Wool, Burlington School Board, Chair
Jeff Wick, Burlington School Board, Vice Chair
Ailsa O'Neil-Dunne, Burlington High School Student
Sylvan Franklin, Burlington High School Student

State of present dtown school

Clare: will be discussing new pcb thresholds in upcoming board meetings, how it impacts path forward. \$3.5 mil from state to improve downtown location. Limited family participation due to pandemic

Jeff: has a sophomore at BHS (Daniel), he's happy, everyone of course would prefer building with windows(!). Not ideal when fully remote.

Ailsa: noise and lack of windows not ideal, but everyone is making it work, students are making Macy's home.

Clare: science has been challenged, moderating noise is a challenge, lunch is crowded...but the board and staff are working together to make improvements. Even the escalator is working (!). Lots of positivity and respect on the part of the students.

Sylvan: design of interior is nice/clean. Some classrooms are nicer than BHS, some not as much.

Hopes for new school

Jeff: still a mixed bag with new guidelines, F building still uninhabitable. Superintendent asking professionals for proper guidance. Still has same problems with accessibility, deferred maintenance. If parts of BHS are safe, buildings A-E might be habitable while maintenance/repair is underway. Board still would have to consider the long term, probably still needs new HS.

Ailsa: people who participate in sports have difficulty getting to the fields, also miss the green space, more room to roam. Lots of things to like about the old campus.

Clare: Institute Road is where BHS belongs, that is what the community has expressed.

Sylvan: proximity to public transportation is a really nice feature of the dtown location, more bus choices would help students going both north and south.

Several questions from citizen attendees ensued.

Calahan Park Master Plan Update

Sophie Suave, Burlington Parks, Recreation and Waterfront

Not starting from scratch, lots of input from public on the topic. Next steps are implementation. Not a large pot of funding to replace everything at once, new playground is funded however. (put project in minutes) Input gathering ongoing since Feb last year, close to 400 people have responded, workshops and meetings online and in the park. Goals are to improve entrances/circulation, new multi-use buildings with restrooms (year round), new playground, expansion of community garden, expanding/improving athletic fields and courts (including addition of pickleball), gathering spaces, lighting on paths / ice rink, improvement of stormwater handling / drainage on fields, diversification of tree species.

ISGOOD (Isham Street Gardening and Other Optimistic Doings) Pilot Project

Brian Cina, ISGOOD Member, VT State Representative (Chittenden 6-4)

Work of ISGOOD, (ward5 npa from last month has other data).

Mutual aid and community building society centered around Isham Street. Started gardening the greenbelt on Isham, got grant money from UVM. Now extended down Hickock Street and expanding beyond. Grants have come from many sources. Actually improved community crime statistics, fewer disturbances. Worked thru the trauma of the pandemic together. Later phases, want to link garden walkways throughout the city. Would like to create 'neighborhood outreach workers', partnerships between neighbors, guided by social work professionals. Has a whole plan, \$290K/year.

VT House of Representatives Update

Tiff Bluemle, VT State Representative (Chittenden 6-5)

Gabrielle Stebbins, VT State Representative (Chittenden 6-5)

Tiff: major issues up for debate, including teacher state pensions, school funding equations, redistricting, amendment for reproductive autonomy. General affairs committee will focus on housing, wages, social justice. New arpa money will be available for recovery housing and equity. Raising minimum wage (\$15/hr). Truth and reconciliation process for path for repairing harms.

Gabrielle: Barbara Rachelson on judiciary, Gabrielle on transportation. Focused on climate change while increasing livable wage jobs. Big bill; bridges/roads/culverts. Representing parents/children when before courts. UVM board representation. PCBs in schools. Vt climate council, global warming solutions act calls for specific reductions in greenhouse gases. Council has a climate action plan, number of recommendations, lots of investment needed to make 2030-2050 goals.

Question on school funding formula from ClareW, impact of weighted formula

(memo from superintendent of Winooski:

<https://cvtse.org/winooski-superintendent-mcmannon-statement-on-discriminatory-ell-funding-proposal/>)

Question about mask mandates on a by-municipality basis; not the comprehensive response needed, disappointing to have to do this.

Adjourned 8:20